

Nixon's Toe Stubs

Richard Nixon has stubbed his toe several times recently, something very unusual for this experienced public figure. His book, "Six Crises," drew fire from two sources. His intimation that Candidate John Kennedy, his 1960 opponent, had been informed of the preparations for a Cuban invasion, drew prompt denial from the White House, which was supported by the statement of Allen Dulles, who had, as head of Central Intelligence, briefed Kennedy on foreign affairs.

And Alger Hiss had seized a statement in the book that FBI agents had found the Woodstock typewriter which Hiss or his wife was alleged to have used to copy State department documents. The Hiss attorney referred to testimony of an FBI man in the Hiss trial that the government never did have the typewriter. It was produced by the defense counsel. In rejoinder, Mr. Nixon attributes the book's misstatement to a "researcher's error." Researcher or ghost writer? How carefully did Nixon read the manuscript?

What may hurt him more in his quest for the governorship of California was his reference to the Brothers Kennedy as "carpetbaggers," which drew resentment of Democrats. Nixon tried to retrieve the inference, but the term is apt to be used to club him with in the campaign. Nixon is trying to do too many things all at once, and trying too hard.